

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13
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PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SENV, OECD, CA
SUBJECT: US PROPOSAL FOR AN OECD AD HOC GROUP ON URBAN CONCERNNS

1. PURSUANT TO REFTEL, EMBOFF MAY 5 REVIEWED WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (EXTAFF) (M. JONES, SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION POLICY DIVISION) AND MINISTRY STATE FOR URBAN AFFAIRS (B. LIPSETT, INTERNATIONAL SECTION) U.S. PROPOSAL THAT OECD ESTABLISH HIGH-LEVEL AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON URBAN CONCERNNS.

2. LIPSETT SAID CANADIANS HAVE BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC FROM START ABOUT SECRETARY'S VANCE'S PROPOSAL AND ARE QUITE PLEASED WITH CONFERENCE DOCUMENT C(78)50. PARTICULAR SATISFACTION WAS EXPRESSED WITH FACT U.S. PAPER DOES NOT A PRIORI IDENTIFY THE KEY PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED BUT RATHER LAYS THE TERRAIN FOR THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S WORK WITHOUT PREDETERMINING THE OUTCOME. ARGUMENT THAT A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRY'S HEALTH IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO HEALTH OF ITS URBAN CENTERS PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE. CANADIANS AGREE THAT ADEQUATE FUNDING IS AVAILABLE IN 78 OECD BUDGET TO COVER AD HOC GROUP'S WORK.

3. CANADIAN SIDE SUPPORTS STRUCTURE PROPOSED IN U.S. PAPER FOR THE AD HOC GROUP I.E., A HIGH LEVEL GROUP (ASST

DEPUTY MINISTER LEVEL) OF POLICY FORMULATORS APPOINTED BY NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND IS DISTURBED OVER REPORT FROM CANADIAN OECD MISSION THAT SECRETARIAT IS RECOMMENDING A TWO-LAYER ARRANGEMENT INCLUDING A COUNCIL WORKING PARTY TO STEER WORK OF URBAN ADVISERS. LIPSETT ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT SUGGESTION (APPARENTLY VOICED BY HEAD OF OECD ENVIRONMENT SECTION) THAT AD HOC GROUP MAY BE REQUIRED TO REPORT TO MAY 1979 MINISTERIAL LEVEL SESSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE. IN GOC VIEW IT MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO HAVE AD HOC GROUP FORWARD COPY OF ITS REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE FOR ITS INFORMATION. HOWEVER, CANADIANS WOULD BE OPPOSED TO THE AD HOC GROUP HAVING TO SEEK RECOMMENDATIONS OF ONE PARTICULAR COMMITTEE AS THAT COULD TILT MULTIDISCIPLINARY NATURE OF EFFORT.

4. AS TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE DIFFERENT URBAN SITUATIONS OF OECD COUNTRIES COULD SERVE AS A BASIS FOR A VALID EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE, LIPSETT FELT IT WAS UP TO THE AD HOC GROUP TO MAKE A CONVINCING CASE. OECD WAS ALREADY SPENDING CONSIDERABLE FUNDS ON URBAN AFFAIRS UNDER VARIOUS HEADINGS BUT IT WAS NOT BEING PROPERLY COORDINATED. IN PARTICULAR, THE INTER-SECTORAL RELATIONSHIP OF THE ECONOMIC AND URBAN AFFAIRS WORK IN OECD WAS NOT BEING ADDRESSED PROPERLY. IT WAS CLEAR SOME OF THE ECONOMIC WORK NOW BEING DONE COULD BE BROKEN OUT IN AN URBAN DIMENSION. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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